

**Montana Rural Education Association**

December 2008

Volume 15 Issue 2

***From the Executive Director***

*It has been an extremely busy fall here in Helena as we make final preparations for the upcoming 2009 Legislative Session and as our association continues to announce new and exciting services in meeting the needs of our members:*

**Session Preparations and MREA's Communications to Members**

Once again during the upcoming session MREA will be offering a variety of e-mail and internet-based communication options designed to keep our members briefed on developments at the Capitol. Please make certain that your school has submitted the e-mail addresses of all administrators, trustees and other staff that you want to receive these communications. We've also enclosed a copy of the latest issue of our "Legislative Status Report" and home addresses for legislators.

**MREA Meetings During the Session – Save these Dates!**

MREA's Board of Directors will meet on **Tuesday, January 20<sup>th</sup>**, and we are strongly encouraging both Superintendents and Trustees from our members' schools to join us for this meeting during the session. In addition, MREA, MTSBA and SAM will be co-hosting our traditional "Day of Advocacy" activities on **Monday, March 16<sup>th</sup>**. Additional information on these events will be forwarded as plans are finalized.

**MREA Announces New Superintendent/Administrator Search Services**

MREA believes that the recruitment and hiring at the district level of the superintendent and other administrative positions is one of the most important roles of the local Board of Trustees. We believe that many local Boards can and should be conducting their own recruitment and searches and that they can be highly effective in doing so without the high fees being paid to outside groups, agencies and individuals. MREA has developed a series of documents and options to help schools with this process and we encourage our members to contact the Helena office for more information on these services. Please see additional details on this new service included in this newsletter.

**MREA-MSU Sponsored Rural Leadership Training**

MREA is excited to announce a new partnership with Montana State University that has been specifically designed for small and rural school districts across the state in training school leaders at both the principal and superintendent levels. The program includes a number of exciting options and advantages that we strongly encourage rural educators to consider:

- "Streamlined" Coursework that will greatly save rural educators in the time and expense required to complete the program requirements.
- Re-design of the dreaded "statistics" courses with a new, more practical and meaningful coursework focusing on Data Driven Decisions at the local level.
- Summer requirements that are scheduled in concert with MREA's summer educators conference allowing educators to complete this requirement in the relaxed atmosphere of our summer meetings.

*As we approach the holidays I want to take just a moment to sincerely thank each of you and your school for the great honor and privilege of representing our association here in Helena! The work here continues to be a true "labor of Love", and I hope during this final "breather" before the frantic pace of the session begins that you will give me a call with any questions or concerns which you have regarding the challenges before our schools and our state association.*

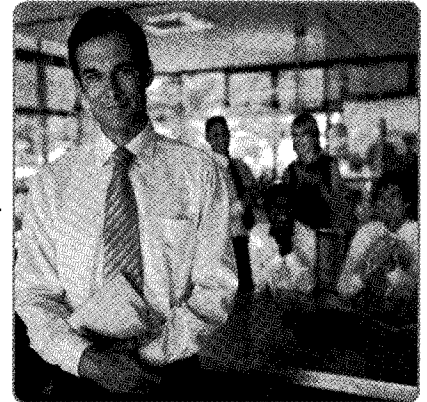
**Dave Puyear**

# MREA Announces a New Approach to Superintendent/Administrator Recruitment and Search Services In Meeting the Needs of Montana Schools

MREA believes that the recruitment and hiring at the district level of the superintendent and other administrative positions is one of the most important roles of the local Board of Trustees. We believe that many local Boards can and should be conducting their own recruitment and searches and that they can be highly effective in doing so without the high fees being paid to outside groups, agencies and individuals.

MREA with the assistance of Dr. Rich Shaffer and Montana State University have developed a series of documents and a menu of options to help schools across Montana with this process.

**Local School Boards are encouraged to contact MREA's Helena office for free consultation, a complete explanation of the program and an outline of the various services available.**



## **Free Guide Walks the Board Through the Process:**

MREA and Dr. Shaffer of MSU have developed a free "how-to" guide which clearly explains the various aspects of an effective recruitment and search process.

## **Limited Search Management and Facilitation Available (at a fraction of what others charge!):**

A variety of management and facilitation services are available to assist Montana Schools.

In some cases it may be difficult for the local schools to manage the paperwork and communications or to conduct the necessary background checks on their own. MREA can assist with these responsibilities for a fee that is a fraction of what other groups, agencies and individuals are currently charging for this assistance.

## **On-Site Facilitator/Expert Assistance:**

Although MREA believes that local Boards are in the best position to completely conduct their OWN searches, there may be some circumstances where on-site assistance and facilitation is needed. MREA has agreements with a number of highly experienced educators and consultants to help districts requesting this assistance.

All of the above services are available to Montana Schools on a "sliding scale basis" based on the size of the district and the services requested. ...ALL at a fraction of what other groups, agencies and individuals are currently charging! Please contact our Helena office for more details, free consultation and initial assistance with your employment recruitment and search needs.

## **MREA Officers and Board of Directors**

Kris Kuehn	President	Malta
Tim Tharp	Vice President	Dutton-Brady
John McNeil	Past President	Savage
Wayne Koterba	Past President	Westby
Dave Puyear	Exc. Director	Helena

Bryan Duvall	Geraldine
Dick Cameron	Broadus
Brian Miller	Wolf Point
Dennis Gerke	Centerville
Dave Selvig	Scobey
Wade Johnson	Cut Bank

# ***MREA's Member Services***

## **Legal Services – Rich Batterman**

With perhaps one of the broadest and most diverse backgrounds and professional experience of any attorney currently serving Montana Schools, Rich Batterman serves as MREA's Chief Legal Counsel as well as provides services directly to our members through our Legal Option Service. Rich is a Montana native having grown up in Glendive, is owner of the Batterman Law Offices located in Baker and Glendive, and also serves as the County Attorney for Fallon and Carter Counties. Rich can be contacted at: Phone 778-3006, E-Mail: [rbatterman@midrivers.com](mailto:rbatterman@midrivers.com)



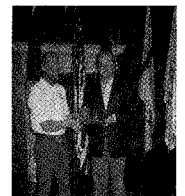
## **Special Programs Assistance – Dr. Ken Stuker**

Dr. Ken Stuker offers assistance to our member districts with the development and maintenance of the Comprehensive Educational Plans, Effectiveness Report requirements, "GASB" accounting requirements and a variety of other state and federal program requirements. Dr. Stuker can be contacted at: Phone: 442-8707, E-Mail: [stukers@bresnan.net](mailto:stukers@bresnan.net)



## **E-Rate Services—Jack Sterling**

MREA continues to be very proud of sponsoring the invaluable services of Jack Sterling in assisting schools with the entire E-Rate application process. Jack is a very knowledgeable source of information regarding this federal program, and our MREA schools have benefited tremendously from the assistance he has offered through this association service. Please feel free to contact Jack directly at: Phone: 406-259-5399, E-mail: [jacks@nemontel.net](mailto:jacks@nemontel.net)



## **Health Insurance and Benefit Services—MUST**

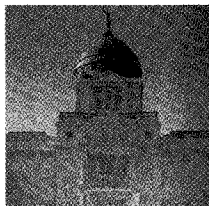
MREA is proud to endorse the MUST Insurance programs. We encourage our members to carefully consider the wide range of programs and services available through MUST. Members are encouraged to contact Bob Robinson for more information on MUST options and services. Bob can be contacted at Phone: 447-4401, E-mail: [brobinson@ms-sf.org](mailto:brobinson@ms-sf.org).



## **Workers' Compensation, Property and Liability Insurance**

The Montana Rural Education Association (MREA) is proud to announce a new partnership with Western States Insurance (WSI), Dave Pillatzke and Lynn Mavencamp. Western States Insurance and MREA are a natural alliance as approximately 300 school districts currently depend on WSI for their property and liability insurance needs. This new partnership has been established following Western State's decision to expand service by now offering Workers Compensation Insurance to schools. Dave and Lynn can be contacted at 442-8010, E-Mail: [dpillatzke@wsi-insurance.com](mailto:dpillatzke@wsi-insurance.com)





**Montana  
Rural  
Education  
Association**

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## ***Inside..***

- ⇒ ***MREA Announces New Superintendent/Administrator Search Services!***
- ⇒ ***MSU and MREA Join Forces on Administrator Training Program***
- ⇒ ***Plans for the 2009 Legislative Session***

## ***Upcoming State Conferences, Meetings and Activities***

### **January**

5	61st Montana Legislative Session Begins	Capitol
20	MREA Board of Directors Meeting	Helena

### **March**

2	Legislative Transmittal Break (Tentative)	Capitol
15	MREA Board and Membership Meeting	Helena
	<i>Trustees and Administrators Urged to Attend!</i>	
16	Joint Day of Advocacy (MREA, SAM and MTSBA)	Helena

***All school trustees, administrators and clerks are eligible for MREA's on-line e-mail briefings. Please forward new e-mails to our Helena Office. Don't let your school be "left out" from receiving critical updates and information during this legislative session!***

# MREA

## Legislative Status Report

Volume 5, Issue 2

November 28, 2008

### Introduced and Unintroduced Bill Drafts

## Introduced Bills

\* after status indicates the bill is *probably* dead

Total number of Introduced Bills - 3

Total number of Introduced and Unintroduced Bills - 92

Bill Type - Number	LC Number	Primary Sponsor	Status	Status Date	Short Title
HB17	LC0669	Ken Peterson	(H) Introduced	11/14/2008	Revise requirements for administrative rules
HB18	LC0060	Pat Ingraham	(H) Introduced	11/19/2008	Mail ballot pilot project
HB19	LC0035	Pat Ingraham	(H) Introduced	11/19/2008	Revise and clarify state election laws

## Unintroduced Bills

\* after status indicates the bill is *probably* dead

Total number of Unintroduced Bills - 89

Bill Draft No. (LC No.)	Request Date	Requestor	Status	Status Date	Short Title
LC0003	04/25/2007	Jeff Essmann	(C) Pre-Introduction Letter Sent	11/10/2008	Geographic restrictions for sex offenders
LC0009	06/28/2007	Revenue and Transportation Interim Committee	(C) Draft in Input/Proofing	11/26/2008	Revenue estimating resolution
LC0015	09/26/2007	Kelly Gebhardt	(C) Draft On Hold	11/07/2008	Revise school funding through basic entitlement adjustment
LC0020	12/06/2007	Bob Story	(C) Draft Request Received	12/06/2007	Drug and alcohol testing for certain occupations
LC0021	12/06/2007	David E Wanzenried	(C) Draft On Hold	10/28/2008	Public school fund asset exchange
LC0022	12/10/2007	David E Wanzenried	(C) Draft On Hold	10/15/2008	Optional total payment of property taxes by January
LC0033	12/14/2007	Dave Lewis	(C) Draft Request Received	12/14/2007	Split short term investment pool between state and local government
LC0037	01/17/2008	David E Wanzenried	(C) Draft On Hold	09/17/2008	Revise rules and procedure for nonlawyer representation before certain entities
LC0043	02/04/2008	Children, Families, Health, and Human Services Interim Committee	(C) Pre-Introduction Letter Sent	11/07/2008	Clarify duration of caretaker relative educational authorization affidavit
LC0045	02/07/2008	Gary L Perry	(C) Draft to Requester for Review	11/25/2008	Clarify applicability of "at work" for work comp purposes
LC0046	02/08/2008	Bob Story	(C) Draft On Hold	10/08/2008	Criteria for determination of market value for state land occupied by dams
LC0058	02/20/2008	Trudi Schmidt	(C) Draft in Legal Review	11/26/2008	Revise and clarify school speed zone law
LC0068	03/18/2008	Rick Laible	(C) Draft to Drafter - Edit Review [SAB]	11/26/2008	Require funding before school rules with fiscal impact implemented
LC0070	03/25/2008	Rick Laible	(C) Draft Request	03/25/2008	Implement distance learning

			Received		provision of basic system of free quality schools
LC0098	04/22/2008	Dan Villa	(C) Draft Request Received	04/22/2008	Create protested property tax reserve account
LC0105	04/30/2008	David E Wanzenried	(C) Draft in Input/Proofing	11/19/2008	Unemployment benefits for certain school employees between terms
LC0108	05/02/2008	State Administration and Veterans' Affairs Interim Committee	(C) Draft to Requester for Review	11/13/2008	Professional retirement option for K-12 workforce
LC0112	05/02/2008	State Administration and Veterans' Affairs Interim Committee	(C) Pre-Introduction Letter Sent	11/07/2008	Increase benefits and contributions to firefighters' unified retirement system
LC0115	05/09/2008	Carol Williams	(C) Pre-Introduction Letter Sent	11/24/2008	Study long-term impacts of budget and demographics driving costs
LC0146	06/23/2008	Legislative Finance Committee	(C) Draft in Input/Proofing	11/13/2008	State rainy day fund
LC0147	06/23/2008	Legislative Finance Committee	(C) Pre-Introduction Letter Sent	11/26/2008	Study student loan system
LC0150	06/23/2008	Children, Families, Health, and Human Services Interim Committee	(C) Pre-Introduction Letter Sent	11/07/2008	Clarify sponsor notification for administrative rules
LC0168	06/24/2008	Legislative Council	(C) Draft to Drafter - Edit Review [SAB]	11/26/2008	Appropriations normally made by budget amendment
LC0176	06/24/2008	Legislative Council	(C) Draft On Hold	07/30/2008	Pay plan for state employees
LC0178	06/24/2008	Legislative Council	(C) Pre-Introduction Letter Sent	11/12/2008	Accounting for certain post-retirement benefits
LC0198	06/30/2008	Law and Justice Interim Committee	(C) Pre-Introduction Letter Sent	11/07/2008	Revise waiver of attorney by youth
LC0218	07/14/2008	Revenue and Transportation Interim Committee	(C) Draft On Hold	10/09/2008	Mitigation of property tax effects of cyclical reappraisal in classes 3, 4, 10
LC0223	07/15/2008	Revenue and Transportation Interim Committee	(C) Draft On Hold	11/07/2008	Protect certain land owners from tax increases and preserve agricultural land
LC0224	07/15/2008	Revenue and Transportation Interim Committee	(C) Draft On Hold	11/07/2008	Address underage consumption of alcohol
LC0238	07/15/2008	State Administration and Veterans' Affairs Interim Committee	(C) Draft On Hold	11/06/2008	Electronic records information management standards
LC0240	07/15/2008	State Administration and Veterans' Affairs Interim Committee	(C) Draft Canceled*	10/06/2008	Extend definition of lobbying to include lobbying governor on legislation
LC0244	07/15/2008	State Administration and Veterans' Affairs Interim Committee	(C) Draft On Hold	08/01/2008	Establish methodology for deferred maintenance for state buildings
LC0259	07/15/2008	State Administration and Veterans' Affairs Interim Committee	(C) Pre-Introduction Letter Sent	11/24/2008	Require employer contributions on working retirees under certain conditions
LC0360	09/03/2008	Dave Lewis	(C) Draft On Hold	11/07/2008	Revise school budget timelines
LC0367	09/05/2008	Dan Villa	(C) Draft On Hold	11/07/2008	Revise school funding
LC0375	09/10/2008	Education and Local Government Interim Committee	(C) Pre-Introduction Letter Sent	11/20/2008	Change date for quality educator loan repayment assistance
LC0376	09/10/2008	Education and Local Government Interim Committee	(C) Pre-Introduction Letter Sent	11/10/2008	Clarify school district consolidations and annexations
LC0377	09/10/2008	Education and Local Government Interim Committee	(C) Draft On Hold	11/07/2008	Clarify state payment of tuition for homeless students

LC0378	09/10/2008	Education and Local Government Interim Committee	(C) Pre-Introduction Letter Sent	11/17/2008	Quarter time ANB for 135 hours of pupil instruction
LC0379	09/10/2008	Education and Local Government Interim Committee	(C) Pre-Introduction Letter Sent	11/07/2008	Increase pupil transportation reimbursements
LC0380	09/10/2008	Education and Local Government Interim Committee	(C) Pre-Introduction Letter Sent	11/14/2008	Revise interlibrary program
LC0434	09/15/2008	Carol C Juneau	(C) Draft On Hold	11/07/2008	Generally revise school funding
LC0435	09/15/2008	Carol C Juneau	(C) Draft On Hold	11/07/2008	Generally revise school funding
LC0439	09/16/2008	Education and Local Government Interim Committee	(C) Pre-Introduction Letter Sent	11/07/2008	Study option for improving administrative efficiencies in school system
LC0454	09/16/2008	Legislative Council	(C) Draft On Hold	11/07/2008	Fund K-12 education
LC0455	09/16/2008	Legislative Council	(C) Draft On Hold	10/01/2008	K-12 school facility program
LC0501	09/23/2008	Fire Suppression Committee	(C) Draft On Hold	11/19/2008	Require training on mechanized fuels reduction and fire suppression equipment
LC0528	09/25/2008	Education and Local Government Interim Committee	(C) Pre-Introduction Letter Sent	11/07/2008	Interim study to consider establishment of Montana Scholarship Program
LC0529	09/25/2008	Education and Local Government Interim Committee	(C) Pre-Introduction Letter Sent	11/07/2008	Urge development of K-20 education shared policy goals
LC0530	09/25/2008	Education and Local Government Interim Committee	(C) Pre-Introduction Letter Sent	11/07/2008	Urge development of K-12 education shared policy goals
LC0531	09/29/2008	Education and Local Government Interim Committee	(C) Pre-Introduction Letter Sent	11/24/2008	Increase the quality educator payment
LC0532	09/29/2008	Education and Local Government Interim Committee	(C) Pre-Introduction Letter Sent	11/25/2008	Apply inflationary adjustments to K-12 BASE aid and general fund components
LC0533	09/29/2008	George G Groesbeck	(C) Draft On Hold	11/07/2008	Bonding for higher ed and other state projects
LC0605	10/17/2008	Llew Jones	(C) Draft On Hold	11/07/2008	Revise territory transfer laws relating to K-12 school districts
LC0608	10/17/2008	Terry Murphy	(C) Draft Request Received	10/17/2008	Clarify ability of school districts to share superintendents and principals
LC0611	10/20/2008	Jeff Essmann	(C) Draft On Hold	11/07/2008	Implement and fund isolated schools component of quality education
LC0612	10/20/2008	Carol C Juneau	(C) Draft On Hold	11/17/2008	Revitalization of native languages
LC0619	10/20/2008	Carol C Juneau	(C) Draft On Hold	11/07/2008	Close achievement gap in schools
LC0620	10/20/2008	Carol C Juneau	(C) Draft On Hold	11/07/2008	Close achievement gap in schools
LC0621	10/20/2008	Carol C Juneau	(C) Draft On Hold	11/07/2008	Close achievement gap in schools
LC0625	10/21/2008	Rick Laible	(C) Draft On Hold	11/07/2008	Charter school authority
LC0658	10/24/2008	Larry Jent	(C) Draft Taken Off Hold	11/24/2008	Public school consideration in impact fees
LC0659	10/24/2008	Dave Lewis	(C) Draft On Hold	11/19/2008	Authorize local governments to form investment pool
LC0661	10/24/2008	Economic Affairs Interim Committee	(C) Draft to Requester for Review	11/25/2008	Clarify appointment process for Board of Personnel Appeals
LC0665	10/24/2008	Ken Peterson	(C) Draft Request Received	10/24/2008	Prohibit state agencies from lobbying legislature
LC0678	10/30/2008	Ron Erickson	(C) Draft Request Received	10/30/2008	Create energy efficiency fund for K-12 schools
LC0687	11/03/2008	Aubyn Curtiss	(C) Draft Canceled*	11/14/2008	Urge full funding of payments in lieu of taxes on federal lands in Montana
LC0688	11/03/2008	Aubyn Curtiss	(C) Draft Request	11/03/2008	Constitutional amendment to allow

			Received		acquisition value for property taxation
LC0689	11/03/2008	Rick Laible	(C) Draft On Hold	11/20/2008	Revise the impact fee enabling act
LC0696	11/05/2008	Jerry W Black	(C) Draft Request Received	11/05/2008	Equity in education act
LC0699	11/05/2008	Gregory D Barkus	(C) Draft Request Received	11/05/2008	Revise Montana information technology act
LC0700	11/05/2008	Gregory D Barkus	(C) Draft On Hold	11/19/2008	Promote distance learning in Montana
LC0707	11/05/2008	Dee Brown	(C) Draft Request Received	11/05/2008	25% new resource development revenue to fund education and property tax relief
LC0710	11/06/2008	Jesse Laslovich	(C) Draft Request Received	11/06/2008	Revise education laws
LC0713	11/06/2008	Wanda Grinde	(C) Draft Request Received	11/06/2008	Energy efficiency fund for K-12 schools
LC0714	11/06/2008	Scott Reichner	(C) Draft On Hold	11/24/2008	K-12 building fund financed by new energy production
LC0741	11/07/2008	Jim Keane	(C) Draft Request Received	11/07/2008	Revise education law
LC0742	11/07/2008	Jim Keane	(C) Draft Request Received	11/07/2008	Revise education law
LC0751	11/07/2008	Roy Brown	(C) Draft Request Received	11/07/2008	Eliminate business equipment tax
LC0752	11/07/2008	Roy Brown	(C) Draft Request Received	11/07/2008	Reduce property taxes
LC0757	11/10/2008	Shannon Augare	(C) Draft Request Received	11/10/2008	Increase university spending on Montana grown food
LC0758	11/10/2008	Shannon Augare	(C) Draft Request Received	11/10/2008	Revise school retirement funding
LC0769	11/10/2008	Roy Brown	(C) Draft Request Received	11/10/2008	Teacher signing bonuses
LC0770	11/10/2008	Roy Brown	(C) Draft Request Received	11/10/2008	Keep our kids here tax credit
LC0772	11/10/2008	Wayne Stahl	(C) Draft Request Received	11/10/2008	Remove electric distribution lines from property taxation
LC0773	11/10/2008	Wayne Stahl	(C) Draft Request Received	11/10/2008	Revise laws governing school district accounts
LC0786	11/10/2008	Chuck Hunter	(C) Draft Request Received	11/10/2008	Revise laws relating to children's system of care
LC0788	11/10/2008	Wanda Grinde	(C) Draft Request Received	11/10/2008	Create and fund K-12 distance learning network
LC0789	11/10/2008	Galen Hollenbaugh	(C) Draft On Hold	11/10/2008	State employee pay plan

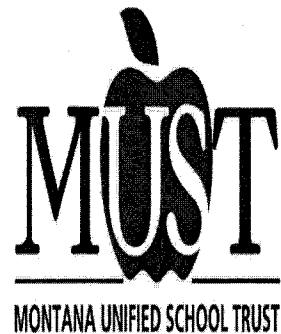
"Probably Dead" is a Bill Progress Category, and is assigned to those bills that have been voted down or missed a transmittal deadline, and to those bill drafts that have been canceled.

To revive a bill that is "probably dead" typically requires a supermajority vote (usually a 2/3 vote) by the House or Senate.

## ***A Message From Bob Robinson...***

### **Chief Executive Officer of MUST**

The recently signed memorandum of understanding between the Montana Unified School Trust (MUST) and the Montana Rural Education Association (MREA) establishes a new and firm relationship between these two well respected organizations. While representatives of MUST and MREA have served together on planning committees and participated/communicated on issues of joint concern, there was no firm relationship in place other than our common interests of supporting the betterment of public schools.



As MUST and Blue Cross and Blue Shield staffs were working on the consolidation of MUST and Montana Schools Health and Welfare Plan (MSHWP) districts, the MUST Trustees and MREA Board saw the advantage of formalizing a relationship so together we could cooperate in addressing the health benefits needs of Montana public schools; especially the small schools that we both serve. This agreement provides for MREA to support and endorse MUST and its benefits program in public schools. In turn, MUST will financially support MREA and its programs such as its "Montana First" teacher recruiting efforts in the spring of each year.

More importantly, however, the agreement provides a defined structure for MUST to have access to MREA and its staff as a sounding board and advisor concerning common interests in rural schools. Both organizations believe our common interests are better served through clear and trusted communication and a unified position before the legislature and other policy making bodies.

When MSHWP and Blue Cross withdrew from the consolidation process in late October, MUST staff and trustees renewed their commitment to the MSHWP districts by standing behind the promises made in the consolidation Letter of Intent. We communicated that to the MSHWP districts in a letter dated November 5, 2008 and continue to work with several districts as they endeavor to join MUST. MREA also stood behind its promise.

Shortly after the consolidation effort collapsed, Dave Puyear and the MREA Board of Directors stepped forward and said that he and MREA were good for their word as well and would continue to support MUST. This was a true test of a relationship that was just being formalized and we, at MUST, think it bodes very well for our relationship in the future.



To: District Clerks, Superintendents, Board Chairpersons and MEA-MFT Unit Leadership,

From: Bob Robinson, Chief Executive Officer  
Montana Unified School Trust

Re: MUST Options for MSHWP Districts after January 1, 2009

Date: November 5, 2008

As you probably know, the Montana Schools Health and Welfare Plan (MSHWP) chairman served notice on October 27, 2008 that MSHWP was withdrawing from the Letter of Intent signed in March to consolidate the MSHWP school districts into the Montana Unified School Trust (MUST). Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Montana (BCBSMT) has since served notice of its withdrawal as well.

We regret that this has happened. We felt the consolidation was the right thing to do for Montana public schools. The combined group would have had increased purchasing power, greater rate stability, lower administration costs and would have enabled districts to select from multiple plan options to meet the needs of their employees.

As part of the planning process, we conducted 11 regional meetings in September and October to discuss the consolidation and approximately half of the MSHWP districts attended. We assumed most of their questions were answered as 52 of the 55 MSHWP districts submitted Participation and Affiliation Agreements to join MUST by October 27, 2008.

Given the decision by MSHWP and BCBSMT to revoke their commitment to the Letter of Intent, the MUST Trustees and the Montana School Services Foundation Board both directed that MUST stand behind the commitments we made.

To that end, MUST will make good on its commitment to the MSHWP districts by providing the following benefit options effective January 1, 2009:

1. A MUST plan is offered at the same premium that the districts are currently paying for their current BCBSMT plan for six months. This plan will match the current plan as closely as possible. In early March, MUST will provide renewal rates for the July 2009 through June 2010 period. Deductible credit will be offered when appropriate based upon the beginning date of the group benefit period.
2. An 18-month MUST plan is offered at the same premium that the districts are currently paying for the first 6 months with a rate increase not to exceed 7% for the remaining 12 months (July 2009 through June 2010). This plan will match the

current plan as closely as possible. Deductible credit will be offered when appropriate based upon the beginning date of the group benefit period.

3. MUST will provide districts a quote through its standard quoting process for any district that wishes to examine MUST plans not similar to their current plans. These proposals can be for either a 6 month or 18 month contract.

None of the above options will require a 3 year commitment. We believe that the districts that willingly join MUST will remain with MUST and a long term contract is not needed to generate adequate reserves. The required contract for Option 1 is for 6 months, Option 2 is 18 months, and Option 3 either 6 or 18 months.

MUST, at its own expense, will provide our Healthy Futures Wellness Program to all new districts within 6 months of joining. This includes a health risk assessment, blood draw and blood chemistry analysis and as necessary, personal follow-up.

Going forward MUST will continue to use the business model and underwriting methodology that has proven very successful for the past 8 years. We make every effort to control costs on behalf of our member districts and expect administrative costs to continue under 7% annually. That means that 93% of premium dollars go to direct payment for medical services and reserve accumulation.

As you are considering joining MUST, you need to know that MUST is on very solid financial footing. On June 30, MUST reserves exceed 240% of the authorized control level which means that reserves for claim payments are well above the amount that would be required by an insurance regulator to assure adequate protection.

In addition, the MUST investment policy and investment advisors have served MUST exceptionally well during the recent market downturn. Our investment report through the end of September shows that MUST weathered the July through September market downturn with only a \$4,960 net realized loss consisting of losses on sale of some securities offset by interest and dividend income. For the period, MUST had an unrealized fair market value loss (paper loss) of \$32,907. These losses were minimal when one considers the MUST investment portfolio exceeded \$20,173,000 at the end of September. MUST experienced a 0.2% loss during a period when many investment portfolios experienced losses of 20% or more.

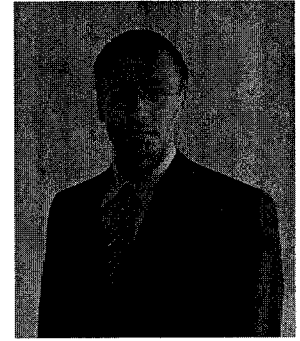
MUST is known for excellent service, complete transparency and attention to the needs of our districts. We can be counted on to carry through with commitments we make to our districts and these proposals are our attempt to make good on our promises to you.

MUST marketing and field service representatives will contact you to answer any questions you may have. I look forward to the opportunity to help you join the MUST family of school districts and will make every effort to address your concerns.

cc: MSSF and MUST Board members

# ***MREA's Legal Services***

**Rich Batterman, Chief Legal Counsel**



## ***MREA's Dues and Legal Option PAY for Themselves!***

**Investing in MREA Membership and subscribing to the Legal Option is one of the most cost effective decisions a school district can make!** With most attorneys experienced in school law charging well over \$100.00 per hour for their time, this optional service provided to MREA members pays for itself in a matter of a few phone calls requesting advice on minor legal issues or *almost instantly* when a major legal challenge hits the district. *Even if your district already subscribes to another legal service, we believe that it is important, in today's climate, to consider the value of having easy access to a "second opinion".*

***MREA's Legal Option is the only one of its kind in Montana!*** MREA's attorneys serve the needs of our schools under an independent contract from their own offices. **Rich Batterman** is the owner of Batterman Law Offices, P.C., a general practice law firm with offices in Baker and Glendive, Montana. He is the elected county attorney for Fallon and Carter Counties and serves as legal counsel to those entities (and their school districts!) on a part-time basis. Rich grew up in Glendive, earned a degree from Hamline University in St. Paul, Minnesota, and then worked for the Boy Scouts of America. He went on to law school in Vermont, moved back to Montana in 1998, and has been in active practice ever since.

The Legal Option is telephone consultation service for school district members of MREA. Legal option participants can expect a return call from Rich within 24 hours. The legal option program allows for unlimited telephone consultation with a school attorney over a period of one year under certain conditions set forth below. The cost of the service is a one-time flat fee equivalent to 50% of a member's MREA dues, with a minimum fee of \$100.00. The program is offered on a yearly basis from July 1 to June 30. Under the program, an MREA district pays its annual option fees to MREA just as it would pay its annual dues. MREA passes the district's name and legal option fee on to the attorney. The district can call the attorney directly when legal questions arise; the lawyer will check the option list before billing your district and will keep track of all time and phone services provided. The lawyer will provide you with a record of your use of the option at any time.

This legal option retainer covers all telephone consultation services with the designated lawyer. It does not cover in-depth research, the preparation of documents, written opinions, or telephone consultations in conjunction with the lawyer's representation of the district on a discrete matter, such as a county superintendent hearing, lawsuit, contract negotiations, or similar in-depth representation. The option does cover the review of documents mailed or faxed to our offices in conjunction with a request for legal consultation.

It should be noted that use of the legal option does not guarantee that the legal option lawyer will be available for litigation in which the district becomes involved. The legal option lawyer will, however, advise you as soon as it becomes apparent that litigation is a possibility and if the lawyer cannot take the case, will assist your district in securing competent counsel for the case. Should another attorney handle your case; telephone consultation on the matter would still be available with the legal option attorney. If the legal option attorney does take your case, you will be billed for all work and consultations relative to that case.

***MREA's Legal Option is noted on the enclosed membership invoice.....please feel free to contact our Executive Director, Dave Puyear (443-2629) for more information on this membership service.***

# MREA 2009 Legislative Contact Information

Name	Address1	City	PostalCode	Phone1	MobilePhone	Email	Party	District
Ankney, Duane	PO Box 2138	Colstrip	59323-2138	(406) 748-4328	(406) 740-0629	goodwind.duane@gmail.com	R	HD 43
Arnzen, Elsie	850 Senora Ave	Billings	59105-2051	(406) 450-0020	(406) 698-7845	goodwind.duane@gmail.com	R	HD 53
Augare, Shannon	PO Box 2031	Brownings	59417-2031	(406) 784-2487	(406) 539-5547	emartzen@excite.com	D	HD 16
Bales, Keith	7 Quietus Rd	Bozeman	59062-9409	(406) 586-1838	(406) 250-0071	shannonaugare@aol.com	R	SD 20
Balyeat, Joe	PO Box 2031	Other	59115-8621	(406) 755-8362	(406) 396-3256	shannonaugare@aol.com	R	SD 34
Barkus, Gregory	PO Box 2031	Bozeman	59072-2647	(406) 721-3695	(406) 925-1361	shannonaugare@aol.com	R	SD 4
Barrett, Dick	PO Box 2031	Kalispell	59801-8730	(406) 881-3177	(406) 925-1361	shannonaugare@aol.com	R	HD 93
Barrett, Debby	6909 Rising Eagle Rd	Missoula	59725-8031	(406) 562-3616	(406) 925-1361	shannonaugare@aol.com	R	HD 32
Bean, Russell	PO Box 2647	Dillon	59410-0480	(406) 862-2022	(406) 925-1361	shannonaugare@aol.com	R	HD 1
Beck, Bill	219 Agnes Ave	Augusta	59937-2049	(406) 446-4440	(406) 425-2310	shannonaugare@aol.com	R	HD 33
Beck, Paul	18580 MT Highway 324	Whitefish	59068-1315	(406) 245-7256	(406) 425-2310	shannonaugare@aol.com	R	HD 45
Becker, Arlene	PO Box 480	Red Lodge	59101-4240	(406) 245-7256	(406) 390-4014	shannonaugare@aol.com	R	SD 14
Belcourt, Tony	PO Box 2049	Billings	59521-0192	(406) 352-5000	(406) 390-4014	shannonaugare@aol.com	R	HD 10
Bennett, Gerald	PO Box 1315	Box Elder	59923-8458	(406) 293-7012	(406) 390-4014	shannonaugare@aol.com	R	HD 21
Bergren, Bob	PO Box 192	Libby	59501-8609	(406) 265-9078	(406) 390-4014	shannonaugare@aol.com	R	HD 23
Berry, Tom	1440 Lewis Ave	Havre	59072-0157	(406) 434-5363	(406) 261-3269	shannonaugare@aol.com	R	HD 61
Black, Jerry	PO Box 157	Shelby	59474-1950	(406) 857-2010	(406) 231-8618	shannonaugare@aol.com	R	SD 27
Blasdel, Mark	PO Box 157	Somers	59932-0291	(406) 868-1029	(406) 231-8618	shannonaugare@aol.com	R	SD 18
Blewett, Anders	445 O'Haire Blvd	Great Falls	59403-2807	(406) 220-1240	(406) 698-4287	shannonaugare@aol.com	R	SD 22
Boland, Cyndie (Carlie)	PO Box 291	Great Falls	59401-1801	(406) 220-1240	(406) 698-4287	shannonaugare@aol.com	R	HD 3
Boniek, Joel	PO Box 2807	Great Falls	59047-2634	(406) 245-2127	(406) 698-4287	shannonaugare@aol.com	R	SD 25
Branae, Gary	PO Box 2807	Livingston	59101-1730	(406) 783-5394	(406) 860-7293	shannonaugare@aol.com	R	SD 6
Brenden, John	PO Box 2807	Billings	59263-0970	(406) 348-2070	(406) 860-7293	shannonaugare@aol.com	R	HD 29
Brown, Taylor	1215 6th Ave N	Scobey	59037-9219	(406) 387-9393	(406) 860-7293	shannonaugare@aol.com	R	HD 80
Brown, Dee	41 Blackhawk Dr	Huntley	59037-9219	(406) 387-9393	(406) 860-7293	shannonaugare@aol.com	R	HD 15
Brown, Roy	415 Yellowstone Ave	Hungry Horse	59919-0444	(406) 252-5554	(406) 860-7293	shannonaugare@aol.com	R	HD 31
Brueggeman, John	PO Box 970	Billings	59104-2273	(406) 883-2395	(406) 350-2917	shannonaugare@aol.com	R	HD 78
Butcher, Edward	775 Squaw Creek Rd	Polson	59860-8123	(406) 462-5627	(406) 461-6266	shannonaugare@aol.com	R	SD 40
Cafarro, Mary	PO Box 444	Winifred	59489-0089	(406) 443-4066	(406) 799-0746	shannonaugare@aol.com	R	SD 1
Calf Boss Ribs, Frosty	PO Box 22273	Helena	59624-1036	(406) 338-2086	(406) 799-0746	shannonaugare@aol.com	R	HD 25
Campbell, Margaret	PO Box 22273	Heart Butte	59448-0020	(406) 653-1570	(406) 431-0912	shannonaugare@aol.com	R	HD 51
Campbell, Jill	39341 Lakeview Dr	Poplar	59255-0228	(406) 227-1144	(406) 431-0912	shannonaugare@aol.com	R	HD 62
Cohenour, Mike	PO Box 89	East Helena	59635-3442	(406) 443-0144	(406) 431-0912	shannonaugare@aol.com	R	SD 47
Cooney, Mike	PO Box 1036	Helena	59601-5877	(406) 882-4448	(406) 431-0912	shannonaugare@aol.com	R	SD 31
Curtiss, Aubyn	PO Box 20	Fortine	59918-0216	(406) 453-5274	(406) 431-0912	shannonaugare@aol.com	R	SD 28
Curtiss, Sue	PO Box 228	Great Falls	59404-1637	(406) 534-4874	(406) 223-5290	shannonaugare@aol.com	R	HD 12
Drickson, Robyn	2610 Colt Dr	Billings	59102-4861	(406) 222-0438	(406) 223-5290	shannonaugare@aol.com	R	HD 36
Drickson, Bob	713 Pyrite Court	Billings	59047-2634	(406) 549-4671	(406) 223-5290	shannonaugare@aol.com	R	HD 36
Ebinger, Bob	PO Box 216	Livingston	59047-2634	(406) 549-4671	(406) 223-5290	shannonaugare@aol.com	R	HD 36
Erickson, Ron	PO Box 216	Livingston	59047-2634	(406) 549-4671	(406) 223-5290	shannonaugare@aol.com	R	HD 36
Esp, John	620 Riverview Dr E	Missoula	59803-1703	(406) 932-5662	(406) 223-5290	shannonaugare@aol.com	R	HD 36
Jeff, Jeff	404 Houle Dr	Big Timber	59011-1024	(406) 259-8404	(406) 223-5290	shannonaugare@aol.com	R	HD 36
John, Jeff	128 S Yellowstone St	Billings	59108-0945	(406) 745-4161	(406) 223-5290	shannonaugare@aol.com	R	HD 36
John, Jeff	3250 Pattee Canyon Rd	Billings	59108-0945	(406) 745-4161	(406) 223-5290	shannonaugare@aol.com	R	HD 36
John, Jeff	PO Box 1024	Saint Ignatius	59865-9331	(406) 487-2455	(406) 223-5290	shannonaugare@aol.com	R	HD 36
John, Jeff	PO Box 80945	Scobey	59263-0356	(406) 487-2455	(406) 223-5290	shannonaugare@aol.com	R	HD 36
John, Jeff	PO Box 80945	Scobey	59263-0356	(406) 487-2455	(406) 223-5290	shannonaugare@aol.com	R	HD 36
John, Jeff	55533 McKeever Rd	Scobey	59263-0356	(406) 487-2455	(406) 223-5290	shannonaugare@aol.com	R	HD 36
John, Jeff	55533 McKeever Rd	Scobey	59263-0356	(406) 487-2455	(406) 223-5290	shannonaugare@aol.com	R	HD 36

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**MREA 2009 Legislative Contact Information**

Furey, Timothy	PO Box 56	Milltown	59851-0056	(406) 258-2888	(406) 546-6025	tfurey@montana.com	D	HD 91
Gallus, Steve	2319 Harvard Ave	Butte	59701-3854	(406) 494-3914	(406) 491-3914	steve.gallus@gmail.com	D	SD 37
Gebhardt, Kelly	PO Box 724	Roundup	59072-0724	(406) 323-1564	(406) 855-7354	gebby@midrivers.com	R	SD 23
Getz, Dennis	1105 N River Ave	Glendive	59330-1932	(406) 365-5127			D	HD 38
Gillan, Kim	750 Judicial Ave	Billings	59105-2130	(406) 248-6063	(406) 690-1808	glonky@aol.com	D	SD 24
Glaser, William	1402 Indian Creek Rd	Huntley	59037-9338	(406) 348-3000	(406) 698-9709	glaser@mcn.net	R	HD 44
Grinde, Wanda	1910 Bannack Dr	Billings	59105-4236	(406) 252-3343		wsgrinde@aol.com	D	HD 48
Groesbeck, George	PO Box 411	Butte	59703-0411		(406) 498-1682	groesbeckforhouse@hotmail.com	D	HD 74
Hamilton, Robin	330 Daly Ave	Missoula	59801-4338	(406) 549-9954	(406) 531-7629	robinhamilton@bresnan.net	D	HD 92
Hamlett, Bradley Maxon	PO Box 49	Cascade	59421-0049	(406) 264-5885	(406) 799-5885	wranglery@bates.com	D	SD 10
Hands, Betsy	1337 Sherwood St	Missoula	59802-2301	(406) 721-3881	(406) 721-3881	betsyhands@gmail.com	D	HD 99
Hansen, Ken	PO Box 686	Harlem	59526-0686	(406) 353-4941	(406) 949-5778	hansen_kenneth@email.com	D	SD 17
Hawk, Ray	NW 4878 Hoblitt Ln	Florence	59833-6832	(406) 777-5120	(406) 239-2125	rhawk@bresnan.net	R	HD 90
Hawks, Bob	703 W Koch St	Bozeman	59715-4477	(406) 587-1403		r_hawks@imt.net	D	SD 33
Hendrick, Gordon	PO Box 262	Superior	59872-0262	(406) 822-4938		hendrickhd14@yahoo.com	R	HD 14
Henry, Teresa	204 Chestnut St	Missoula	59801-1809	(406) 549-8658		tkh@tkhenry.com	D	HD 96
Himmelberger, Dennis	PO Box 2272	Billings	59104-2272	(406) 259-8225	(406) 670-3019	dhimme1045@aol.com	R	HD 47
Hiner, Cynthia	1027 Kentucky St	Deer Lodge	59722-2041	(406) 846-0037	(406) 691-0043	matthiner@hotmail.com	D	HD 85
Hinkle, Greg	5 Gable Rd	Thompson	59873-8512	(406) 827-4845			R	SD 7
Hollandsworth, Roy	1463 Prairie Dr	Brady	59416-8928	(406) 627-2446	(406) 788-5027	hgrain@3riversdbs.net	R	HD 28
Hollenbaugh, Galen	907 N Ewing St	Helena	59601-3405	(406) 443-1200		galen@hollenbaugh.org	D	HD 81
Hoven, Brian	1501 Meadowlark Dr	Great Falls	59404-3325	(406) 761-8533			R	HD 24
Howard, David	PO Box 129	Park City	59063-0129	(406) 633-2765		d.howard@usadig.com	R	HD 60
Hunter, Chuck	717 Dearborn Ave	Helena	59601-2712	(406) 449-2327			D	HD 79
Ingraham, Pat	PO Box 1151	Thompson	59873-1151	(406) 827-4652		pathd13@blackfoot.net	R	HD 13
Jackson, Verdel	555 Wagner Ln	Kalispell	59901-8079	(406) 756-8344	(406) 580-0502	vjack@centurytel.net	R	SD 5
Jent, Larry	1201 S 3rd St	Bozeman	59715-5503	(406) 587-1210		larry@imt.net	D	SD 32
Jones, Lew	1102 4th Ave SW	Conrad	59425-1919	(406) 271-3104		lcjones@3rivers.net	R	HD 27
Jopek, Mike	PO Box 4272	Whitefish	59937-4272	(406) 250-1184		mjopek@mt.gov	D	HD 4
Juneau, Carol	PO Box 55	Browning	59417-0055	(406) 338-5689	(406) 460-1804	csjuneau@3rivers.net	D	SD 8
Kasten, Dave	113 Bob Fudge Rd	Brockway	59214-8706	(406) 485-2372			R	HD 30
Kaufmann, Christine	825 Breckenridge St	Helena	59601-4433	(406) 442-2937	(406) 439-0256	kaufmann@mt.net	D	SD 41
Keane, Jim	2131 Wall St	Butte	59701-5527	(406) 723-8378			D	SD 38
Kerns, Krayton	1408 Golf Course Rd	Laurel	59044-3600	(406) 628-8438		krayton@kraytonkerns.org	R	HD 58
Klock, Harry	PO Box 308	Harlowton	59036-0308	(406) 632-4139	(406) 799-9269	klock@mtintouch.net	R	HD 83
Kottel, Deborah	6470 Heavens View Ln	Great Falls	59404-5203	(406) 727-0542	(406) 899-7401	dkottel@ugf.edu	D	HD 20
Lable, Rick	PO Box 370	Darby	59829-0370	(406) 821-0990	(406) 531-4456	ricklable@aol.com	R	SD 44
Lake, Bob	PO Box 2096	Hamilton	59840-2096	(406) 363-4091	(406) 363-8020	lakemill@montana.com	R	HD 88
Larsen, Cliff	8925 Lavalie Creek Rd	Missoula	59808-9324	(406) 728-1601			D	SD 50
Laslovich, Jesse	112 Mountain View St	Anaconda	59711-1616	(406) 563-3141	(406) 560-0359	jesselaz@yahoo.com	D	SD 43
Lewis, Dave	5871 Collins Rd	Helena	59602-9584	(406) 458-5511	(406) 459-9751	davelewis@aol.com	R	SD 42
MacDonald, Margaret	PO Box 245	Billings	59103-0245	(406) 652-6625	(406) 698-4917	macmargaret@gmail.com	D	HD 54
MacLaren, Gary	429 Curlew Orchard Rd	Victor	59875-9519	(406) 642-3887	(406) 239-2783	garymacLaren@yahoo.com	R	HD 89

MREA 2009 Legislative Contact Information

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McChesney, Bill	316 Missouri Ave	Miles City	59301-4140	(406) 853-2826		macwilly66@msn.com	D	HD 40
McClafferty, Edith	1311 Stuart Ave	Butte	59701-5014	(406) 782-2700	(406) 490-5873		D	HD 75
McGee, Daniel	1925 Pinyon Dr	Laurel	59044-9381	(406) 628-6534			R	SD 29
McGillivray, Tom	3642 Donna Dr	Billings	59102-1119	(406) 656-7542	(406) 698-4428	tmcgillivray@bresnan.net	R	HD 50
McNutt, Walter	110 12th Ave SW	Sidney	59270-3614	(406) 488-4966	(406) 489-4966	walt@midrivers.com	R	HD 37
Mehlhoff, Robert	407 9th St NW	Great Falls	59404-2333	(406) 453-3526	(406) 781-3526	rmehlhoff@yahoo.com	D	HD 26
Menahan, Mike	40 Olive St	Helena	59601-6285	(406) 443-3759			D	HD 82
Mendenhall, Scott	214 Solomon Mountain Rd	Clancy	59634-9213	(406) 933-5831		smendenhall@ineva.com	R	HD 77
Milburn, Mike	276 Chestnut Valley Rd	Cascade	59421-8204	(406) 468-9241	(406) 788-5962	mmilburn@mcn.net	R	HD 19
Miller, Richard (Mike)	20906 MT Highway 141	Helmsville	59843-9025	(406) 793-5860			R	HD 84
More, Michael	450 N Low Bench Rd	Gallatin	59730-8546	(406) 763-5513	(406) 539-1917		R	HD 70
Morgan, Penny	3303 Central Ave	Billings	59102-6609			plm511@hotmail.com	R	HD 57
Moss, Lynda	552 Highland Park Dr	Billings	59102-1046	(406) 252-7318		lyndamoss@jmt.net	D	SD 26
Murphy, Terry	893 Boulder Cutoff Rd	Cardwell	59721-9605	(406) 285-6937		murphyter5@yahoo.com	R	SD 39
Noonan, Pat	PO Box 29	Ramsay	59748-0029	(406) 560-3429	(406) 560-3429	pnoonan73@yahoo.com	D	HD 73
Nooney, Bill	PO Box 4892	Missoula	59806-4892	(406) 544-2343		billnooney4hd100@montana.com	R	HD 100
O'Hara, Jesse	2221 Holly Ct	Great Falls	59404-3562	(406) 761-0088	(406) 781-3333		R	HD 18
Pease-Lopez, Carolyn	5723 US Highway 87 E	Billings	59101-9074	(406) 245-2265			D	HD 42
Perry, Gary	3325 W Cedar Meadow Ln	Manhattan	59741-8240	(406) 282-7477			R	SD 35
Peterson, Ken	424 48th St W	Billings	59106-2306	(406) 534-2376	(406) 591-2608	kenneth59@bresnan.net	R	HD 46
Peterson, Jim	RR 1 Box 2	Buffalo	59418-9501	(406) 374-2277		jpranch@ttc-cmc.net	R	SD 15
Phillips, Mike	9 W Arnold St	Bozeman	59715-6127	(406) 599-6857	(406) 599-6857	mikephillips@montana.net	D	HD 66
Pomnichowski, JP	222 Westridge Dr	Bozeman	59715-6025	(406) 587-7846		pomnichowski@montanadsl.net	D	HD 63
Randall, Lee	101 Randall Ln	Broadus	59317-9519	(406) 436-2807			R	HD 39
Regier, Keith	1078 Stillwater Rd	Kalispell	59901-6902	(406) 756-6141		kgregier@centurytel.net	R	HD 5
Reichner, Scott	78 Redtail Rdg	Bigfork	59911-6283	(406) 837-3929	(406) 253-3929	sreichner@centurytel.net	R	HD 9
Reinhart, Michele	PO Box 5945	Missoula	59806-5945	(406) 360-4762	(406) 360-4762	michele.reinhart@gmail.com	D	HD 97
Ripley, Rick	8920 MT Highway 200	Wolf Creek	59848-8639	(406) 562-3502	(406) 781-8357		R	SD 9
Roberts, Don	5414 Walter Hagen Dr	Billings	59106-1007	(406) 652-3536			R	HD 56
Roundstone, J. David	PO Box 223	Busby	59016-0223	(406) 592-3873			D	HD 41
Sales, Scott	5200 Bostwick Rd	Bozeman	59715-7721	(406) 587-0047	(406) 579-7994	scottsaleshd68@earthlink.net	R	HD 68
Sands, Diane	4487 Nicole Ct	Missoula	59803-2791	(406) 251-2001		hdsands@aol.com	D	HD 95
Schmidt, Trudi	4029 6th Ave S	Great Falls	59405-3746	(406) 452-7215	(406) 799-0100	trudischmidt@q.com	D	SD 11
Sesso, Jon	811 W Galena St	Butte	59701-1540	(406) 782-0768	(406) 490-7405	jonsesso@yahoo.com	D	HD 76
Shockley, Jim	PO Box 608	Victor	59875-0608	(406) 642-3817	(406) 370-8044		R	SD 45
Smith, Cary	5522 Billy Casper Dr	Billings	59106-1029	(406) 652-1828	(406) 698-9307	cary@bresnan.net	R	HD 55
Sonju, Jon	PO Box 2954	Kalispell	59903-2954	(406) 270-7113	(406) 270-7113	sonjumi@yahoo.com	R	HD 7
Squires, Carolyn	2111 S 10th St W	Missoula	59801-3412	(406) 543-6734	(406) 544-6283	sqigs@msn.com	D	SD 48
Stahl, Wayne	PO Box 345	Saco	59261-0345	(406) 527-3321	(406) 459-9995	wtstahl@nemontel.net	R	HD 35
Steenison, Cheryl	PO Box 3145	Kalispell	59903-3145	(406) 270-0872	(406) 270-0872	casteenson@gmail.com	D	HD 8
Steinbeisser, Donald	11918 County Rd 348	Sidney	59270-9620	(406) 433-2187	(406) 489-0547	donstein@midrivers.com	R	SD 19

**MREA 2009 Legislative Contact Information**

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# ***MREA's Legal Services***

**Rich Batterman, Chief Legal Counsel**



## ***MREA's Dues and Legal Option PAY for Themselves!***

**Investing in MREA Membership and subscribing to the Legal Option is one of the most cost effective decisions a school district can make!** With most attorneys experienced in school law charging well over \$100.00 per hour for their time, this optional service provided to MREA members pays for itself in a matter of a few phone calls requesting advice on minor legal issues or *almost instantly* when a major legal challenge hits the district. *Even if your district already subscribes to another legal service, we believe that it is important, in today's climate, to consider the value of having easy access to a "second opinion".*

***MREA's Legal Option is the only one of its kind in Montana!*** MREA's attorneys serve the needs of our schools under an independent contract from their own offices. **Rich Batterman** is the owner of Batterman Law Offices, P.C., a general practice law firm with offices in Baker and Glendive, Montana. He is the elected county attorney for Fallon and Carter Counties and serves as legal counsel to those entities (and their school districts!) on a part-time basis. Rich grew up in Glendive, earned a degree from Hamline University in St. Paul, Minnesota, and then worked for the Boy Scouts of America. He went on to law school in Vermont, moved back to Montana in 1998, and has been in active practice ever since.

The Legal Option is telephone consultation service for school district members of MREA. Legal option participants can expect a return call from Rich within 24 hours. The legal option program allows for unlimited telephone consultation with a school attorney over a period of one year under certain conditions set forth below. The cost of the service is a one-time flat fee equivalent to 50% of a member's MREA dues, with a minimum fee of \$100.00. The program is offered on a yearly basis from July 1 to June 30. Under the program, an MREA district pays its annual option fees to MREA just as it would pay its annual dues. MREA passes the district's name and legal option fee on to the attorney. The district can call the attorney directly when legal questions arise; the lawyer will check the option list before billing your district and will keep track of all time and phone services provided. The lawyer will provide you with a record of your use of the option at any time.

This legal option retainer covers all telephone consultation services with the designated lawyer. It does not cover in-depth research, the preparation of documents, written opinions, or telephone consultations in conjunction with the lawyer's representation of the district on a discrete matter, such as a county superintendent hearing, lawsuit, contract negotiations, or similar in-depth representation. The option does cover the review of documents mailed or faxed to our offices in conjunction with a request for legal consultation.

It should be noted that use of the legal option does not guarantee that the legal option lawyer will be available for litigation in which the district becomes involved. The legal option lawyer will, however, advise you as soon as it becomes apparent that litigation is a possibility and if the lawyer cannot take the case, will assist your district in securing competent counsel for the case. Should another attorney handle your case; telephone consultation on the matter would still be available with the legal option attorney. If the legal option attorney does take your case, you will be billed for all work and consultations relative to that case.

***MREA's Legal Option is noted on the enclosed membership invoice.....please feel free to contact our Executive Director, Dave Puyear (443-2629) for more information on this membership service.***



## **Western States** *Insurance Agency*

### **PROUD TO BE A PARTNER WITH MREA**

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This partnership will provide Western States Insurance additional insight as to what Montana schools want and expect from their insurance agent. From our current property and liability program that services over 300 school districts in Montana, to our upcoming worker's compensation program, we know that the Western States Insurance School Program will provide your district with the most comprehensive coverage, competitive pricing and outstanding claims and customer service. Our program provides your school with many value added products and services to assist you. These include boiler inspections, risk management site evaluations, review of contracts, liability release forms specialized for school activities, PIR days seminars and in-house claims administration.

Look for our regular contributions to MREA's newsletters with school insurance related topics and Dave's Top Ten. Please feel free to contact Dave Pillatzke at 406-457-4531 or via email at [dpillatzke@wsi-insurance.com](mailto:dpillatzke@wsi-insurance.com). You can also visit our web cite at <http://www.wsi-insurance.com/schools>.

### **Expect Great Relationships**

At Western States Insurance, we work with you personally to learn about your financial picture, your business and your insurance concerns so we can work together to help you feel confident that you are making informed choices when it comes to insurance. We work hard to keep you informed and involved in all aspects of your insurance coverage. By working together, we can ensure that you are receiving the best coverage at the right price. Above all, we earn your trust simply by being here for you. After all, we're not just in the insurance business; we're in the relationship business.

### **Hometown Service – Nationwide Resources**

Western States Insurance is the 30<sup>th</sup> largest **privately** owned independent agency in the United States. We have over three hundred employees in twenty seven branches located in Washington, Oregon, Idaho and Montana. In Montana alone, our sixteen locations make it even easier to provide exceptional service for all your insurance needs. Our access to the insurance industry's most trusted carriers nationwide allows us to provide you with a tailored insurance product for your situation at the best price.

### **Products**

Western States Insurance provides a network of school insurance specialists, each top in their field, who are able to draw on the combined expertise of the group. Our team can create a strategic plan to cover every aspect of your insurance needs.

**Benefit Planning:** By providing a comprehensive benefit package, this will help to develop employee loyalty, attract, motivate and retain top talent and increase productivity.

**Commercial Insurance:** Let our commercial insurance team analyze and assess your commercial risk to ensure that you do not have any gaps in coverage when the unexpected happens.

**Individual Personal Insurance:** Whether it's for your home, automobile, recreational vehicle, boat, personal property or personal umbrella coverage, we can help.

**Group Personal Insurance:** Let us provide your employees with their personal insurance needs with discounted group rates. In addition to automatic premium payments from a personal checking account, we also offer a complete payroll deduction program that can be available to your employees for their premium payments.



# MSU – MREA Sponsored Rural Leadership Training

*A Graduate Program in Educational Leadership for  
Prospective Principals and Superintendents,  
Designed Specifically for the Busy Rural Educator!*



## Overview

The purpose of this partnership is to encourage a “grow your own” leadership preparation program specifically designed for rural schools. In two academic years (three summers), participants will earn a master’s degree in educational leadership and will qualify for their K-12 principal certificate AND the superintendent certificate. The program will focus on issues and challenges that are unique to rural school leadership. Courses will be offered either online or face-to-face depending on the number of students enrolled. Summer “residency” seminars will be held in conjunction with the Rural Education Conference in June each summer and will be taught by faculty and practitioners who have experience leading rural schools.

## Why Should You Participate?

If you are committed to leading a rural school, this program will specifically address issues and concerns that are specific to rural schools. The classes will either be taught online or at a location that is most convenient to the students. Participants will benefit from instruction and mentoring from faculty and practitioners who know and understand the unique challenges of rural education. Teachers may enter the program and start an administrative job as they start their training through participation in the State sponsored Administrative Internship program. MREA member schools can receive a discount in the Internship fee by participating in this program. The courses offered during the academic year are sequenced and have related content. Two courses offered at the same time during each term are offered by the same instructor, have been carefully aligned and have been designed to avoid curricular fragmentation. The curriculum was designed in partnership with MREA’s board of directors to meet the needs of our member schools across the state.

**Individual educators or school districts interested in this new innovative program for preparing school leaders should contact either MREA’s Helena office (Phone 406.443.2629, E-mail: [dpuyear@mrea-mt.org](mailto:dpuyear@mrea-mt.org)) OR Dr. Joanne Erickson at MSU (Phone: 406.994.2290, E-mail: [jle@montana.edu](mailto:jle@montana.edu))**

## Program of Study

### Summer 2009:

EDLD 507 Foundations of Leadership and EDLD 508 Supervision and Teacher Evaluation. These two courses will be offered online starting May 18 and conclude July 31.

Summer Seminar - EDLD 645 Personnel Management. This is a week-long seminar offered at the Rural Education Conference in Billings. The “residency” seminar will start 6/21 and continue through 6/26. The seminar will be offered at the annual Rural Education Conference and will be conducted in conjunction with state and national rural education leaders. The week residency begins with a reception on Sunday evening. The course will build on the content from EDLD 508.

**Fall 2009:**

EDLD 532 Montana School Law and EDLD 655 Legal and Policy. These two courses will be taught as a seamless sequence or as one continuous class. The focus is to prepare leaders for the legal challenges inherent in today's schools. The content covers required skills and knowledge for both the principal and the superintendent.

**Spring 2010:**

EDLD 520 School and Community and EDLD 620 School Superintendent. These two courses will be taught as a seamless sequence or as one continuous class. The focus is to prepare leaders to work effectively with their rural community, the parents, and the school board. The content covers required skills and knowledge for both the principal and superintendent.

**Summer 2010:**

EDLD 555 Montana School Finance and EDLD 515 Planned Change. These two courses will be offered online starting May 18 and conclude July 31.

Summer Seminar – EDLD 650 Finance and Facilities. This is a week-long seminar offered at the Rural Education Conference held annually in June and will be conducted in conjunction with state and national rural education leaders. The week residency begins with a reception on Sunday evening. The course will build on the content from EDLD 555 providing the skill and knowledge a superintendent is required to have in the area of finance and facilities.

**Fall 2010:**

EDLD 574 Field Experience. This course is designed to provide structured, sustained, standards-based experiences in authentic settings where participants apply learned knowledge and skills in a school leadership environment.

**Spring 2011:**

EDLD 635 Data Driven Decisions. Participants will learn to apply research-based knowledge, use qualitative and quantitative data, appropriate research methods, technology, information systems and data analysis in school leadership.

**Summer 2011:**

EDLD 524 and EDLD 525 Instructional Leadership. This course sequence will develop skill and knowledge as an instructional leader. The courses will be offered online May 18 through the end of July.

Summer Seminar - EDLD 580 Rural Leadership Capstone. In this week-long seminar, participants will formalize their leadership philosophy consistent with rural understanding and research. The seminar will be offered at the annual Rural Education Conference in June and will be conducted in conjunction with state and national rural education leaders.

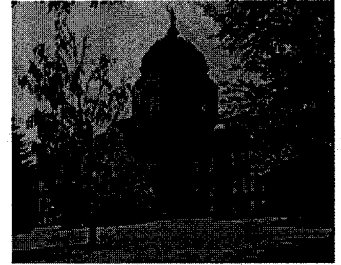
***Program Advantages that MREA Urges all Educators and their Schools to Consider:***

- ⇒ "Streamlined" Coursework that will greatly save rural educators in the time and expense required to complete the program requirements.
- ⇒ Re-design of the dreaded "statistics" courses with a new, more practical and meaningful coursework focusing on Data Driven Decisions at the local level.
- ⇒ Summer requirements that are scheduled in concert with MREA's summer educators conference allowing educators to complete this requirement in the relaxed atmosphere of our summer meetings.

## ***Don't Let Your District Be "Left Out"!***

Please help us make certain that critical information from the 2009 Legislative Session affecting your school gets "delivered" to the right folks!

During the last legislative session MREA transmitted over fifty electronic Briefings and Legislative Alerts to Administrators and Trustees that were specifically aimed at explaining legislative developments affecting schools like yours. *Will your school have access to this information during the upcoming 2009 session?*



Member School District: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Fax Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Name and Position:

E-Mail:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Supt.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Principal  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Board Chair  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk

Other Board Members:

Name:

E-Mail:

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Other Staff and Community Members:

Name:

E-Mail:

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***FAX , E-Mail or Mail this information to MREA as soon as possible!***

Fax: 406.449-0985

Address: P.O. Box 1612, Helena, 59624

E-Mail: [dpuyear@mrea-mt.org](mailto:dpuyear@mrea-mt.org)

# PASSAGE OF A BILL

IN THE MONTANA LEGISLATURE

